Shelf Spacing Cheat Sheet

Design a safe, stylish vertical playground tailored to your cat's mobility.

Plan your custom climbing route with confidence before drilling any holes. Use these guidelines to map out a secure path that perfectly fits your space and feline friend.



Essential Wall Hardware Specs

2
Standard wall studs the base must hit

1/4 in
Thickness for brackets and sisal rope

3
Minimum mounting holes and tape strips

12 in
Stepped descent path drop for seniors

6 months
Routine hardware maintenance inspection frequency

Hide the Hardware

Paint your metal brackets the exact same color as your wall before installation to make the mounting hardware visually disappear into the background.

Spacing By Cat Mobility

Find your row: **Cat's Life Stage**

Cat's Life Stage	Your pick	Why
Agile adults	16-in gap, 18-in drop	Accommodates natural leaping stride
Senior cats	8-in gap, 10-in drop	Reduces daily joint impact

Check Before Drilling

- ○ Identify wall material to choose standard drywall or specialized masonry bits.
- ○ Use a magnetic stud finder to mark the vertical framing center.
- ○ Map the route with painter's tape to verify layout balance.
- ○ Route the climbing path safely over floors, never above fragile furniture.
- ○ Press down on every installed platform to test for deflection.

Building the Playground

1. **Prep the wood treads** Round exposed edges of solid pine or oak with medium-grit sandpaper to prevent claw snags.
2. **Add felt traction pads** Apply non-slip gray felt to treads using heavy-duty carpet tape to create secure launching pads.
3. **Wrap the scratching pole** Tightly coil natural sisal around a wooden post, securing ends with heavy-duty construction staples.
4. **Add washable lounge pad** Secure a plush resting cushion at the highest point using hook-and-loop strips for easy laundry.

Project Notes & Measurements

Enjoy watching your cat confidently explore their brand new vertical territory!